

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /115 W
----- 093213

R 141122Z JAN 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5010

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0202

FROM HOUGHTON

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY TS

SUBJECT: INITIAL EGYPTIAN REACTION TO DECLARATION
OF LIBYAN/TUNISIAN UNITY.

1. INITIAL REACTION IN CAIRO TO JAN 12 ANNOUNCEMENT OF
LIBYAN/TUNISIAN UNITY IS ONE OF RESERVE. SADAT AND HIGHEST
LEVELS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ESTABLISHMENT ARE PRESENTLY IN
ASWAN; NEVERTHELESS, JAN 14 PRESS PLAY INFERS THAT DECLARATION
HAS CAUGHT THEM BY SURPRISE, AND NOT VERY AGREEABLY.

2. ON JAN 13, CAIRO PRESS PUBLISHED FIRST NEWS OF UNITY
AND CONTAINED STATEMENT BY INFORMATION MINISTER HATEM, THAT:
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"EGYPT SUPPORTS ANY UNITY BETWEEN ONE ARAB COUNTRY AND

ANOTHER." NEVERTHELESS, ARTICLES ON LIBYAN/TUNISIAN UNITY IN JAN 13 PAPERS WERE GIVEN SECONDARY IMPORTANCE, AND THIS IS PERPETUATED IN JAN 14 EDITIONS. MOST RECENT REPORTING, MOREOVER, QUOTES VARIOUS NEWS SOURCES TO SHOW MIXED REACTION IN ARAB WORLD TO DECLARATION, AND DRAWS EXTENSIVELY ON RADIO ALGIERS BROADCAST CRITICIZING HASTE OF DECISION AND RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT ITS NEED AT PRESENT TIME. AHARAM ALSO REFLECTS SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE VIEWPOINT IN JAN 14 EDITORIAL, STATING THAT "NO UNIONIST STEP SOULD CONFLICT WITH A PREVIOUS ONE, OR ANOTHER AVAILABLE STEP...SO LONG AS THESE ARE COMMITTED TO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF ARAB LIBERATION, ARAB UNITY, AND THE DOMINATION OF THE ARAB VIEWPOINT."

3. AVAILABLE INDICATORS IN CAIRO SUGGEST THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY EVENT. VIEWS WE HAVE HEARD ON SUBJECT RANGE FROM SUSPICION OF ANY MOVE BY QHADAFL, TO RELIEF THAT, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, HE IS OFF EGYPT'S BACK.
EILTS

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